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General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The attention of the Special Committee is drawn to the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, listed in chapters II to IV below, which are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 2005.

II. General resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. By its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

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4. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

5. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

6. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990-2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, adopted as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). The plan stated that the Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

In addition, the Special Committee was to continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of the administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories and, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, was to make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

8. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Second Decade (A/56/61).

9. At its fifty-ninth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] the General Assembly adopted resolution 59/136 of 10 December 2004, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2004, including the programme of work envisaged for 2005,[3] and requested

the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second International Decade in all Territories that had not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To finalize before the end of 2005 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.[4]

In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate United Nations visiting missions to the Territories, and also called upon the administering Powers that had not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2005.

10. As at 1 January 2005, the Special Committee was composed of the following 27 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela.

III. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2004

11. In addition to resolution 59/136, the General Assembly adopted 11 other resolutions and 3 decisions relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2004, which are listed below. Members will wish to take them into account in drawing up the Special Committee's programme of work for 2005.

A. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific Territories

1. Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	58/316, annex, sect. D, para. 4 (b)	1 July 2004
Western Sahara	59/131	10 December 2004
New Caledonia	59/132	10 December 2004
Tokelau	59/133	10 December 2004
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	59/134 A and B	10 December 2004

2. Decisions

Territory/Title	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Gibraltar	59/519	10 December 2004
Increase in the membership of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	59/520	10 December 2004
Appointment of members of the Special Committee with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	59/414	10 December 2004

B. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	59/127	10 December 2004
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	59/128	10 December 2004

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	59/129	10 December 2004
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	59/130	10 December 2004
Dissemination of information on decolonization	59/135	10 December 2004

IV. Other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below.

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Oceans and the law of the sea	59/24	17 November 2004
Information in the service of humanity	59/126 A	10 December 2004
United Nations public information policies and activities	59/126 B	10 December 2004
Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	59/174	20 December 2004
Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	59/180	20 December 2004
The right to development	59/185	20 December 2004
Pattern of conferences	59/265	23 December 2004
Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005	59/277	23 December 2004

Notes

[1] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-ninth sessions. For the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/56/23); ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/57/23); ibid., *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/58/23); and *Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/59/23).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/59/23).

[3] Ibid., chap. I, sect. J.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII).